

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /105 W
----- 125437

R 301300Z JUN 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2131

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JDDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 680

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IZ

SUBJ: BPC-IRAQI NEGOTIATIONS POSTPONED

REF: (A) LONDON 1831; (B) 2249; (C) BAGHDAD 29; (D) BAGHDAD 40;
(E) BAGHDAD 46; (F) BAGHDAD 132

THE FOLLOWING WAS WRITTEN BY ARTHUR LOWRIES IN FIRST PERSON
BEFORE HE DEPARTED ON LEAVE.

1. SCHEDULED JUNE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOI AND BPC TO FINALIZE
ITERIM ACCORD OF JANUARY 16 (REF E) AND TO DECIDE ON BPC'S
FUTURE ROLE HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THE FALL. LOCAL BPC
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REP PAWSON TOLD ME GOI HAD ASKED HIM SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WHEN

BPC TEAM WAS ARRIVING. PAWSON HAD QUERIED LONDON AND RECEIVED RESPONSE THAT TEAM COULD COME IN LATE JUN. MINPET U/S CHALABI HAD THEN REPLIED THAT GOI NOW PREFERRED TO POSTPONE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL FALL, PRESUMABLY AFTER OPEC MEETING.

2. AS RESULT BPC MANAGING DIRECTOR GEOFFREY STCKWELL ARRIVED IN BAGHDAD FOR ONLY ONE DAY VISIT ON JUN 22. STOCKWELL TOLD ME THAT REASON FOR GOI DECISION TO POSTPONE NEGOTIATIONS SEEMED QUITE CLEAR. IN JANUARY WHEN GOI SET JUNE DATE FOR FINAL NEGOTIATIONS THEY THOUGH SAUDI-ARAMCO ACCORD AND THAT OF OTHER GULF PRODUCERS WOULD BE CONCLUDED BY JUNE AND IRAQ COULD THEN PICK OUT BEST ASPECTS OF EACH AND ATTEMPT TO HAVE THEM APPLIED IN IRAQ. SINCE ARAMCO AND OTHER ACCORDS NOT YET REACHED, GOI NOW PREFERS TO DELAY UNTIL FALL IN ANTICIPATION THAT THOSE ACCORDS WILL BE COMPLETED BY THEN.

3. STOCKWELL ALSO SAID THAT GOI IS CONTRIBUTING ITS 77.2 PERCENT OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT FOR BPC EXPANSION PROGRAM. HOWEVER, HE IS DISTURBED BY DIFFICULTY OF GETTING GOI TO TAKE DAY TO DAY DECISIONS AND ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO PROMOTE BPC SELECTED IRAQIS TO FILL KEY POSITIONS BEING VACATED BY EXPATRIATES. RATHER THAN PUTTING FORTH ALTERNATE PROPOSALS OR PERSONNEL, GOI JUST LETTING THINGS DRIFT AND BPC LIKELY TO GET BLAMED FOR CONSEQUENCES.

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